琉球大学学術リポジトリ

[原著] A Comparative study of school non-attendance (school refusal) between Okinawa and Japan from a demographic viewpoint

メタデータ	言語: English 出版者: 琉球医学会 公開日: 2010-07-02 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): school non-attendance, junior high school, anxiety, playing and delinquency, Okinawa 作成者: Takizawa, Tohru, Naka, Kouichi, Wake, Norie メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12000/0002016185

A Comparative study of school non-attendance (school refusal) between Okinawa and Japan from a demographic viewpoint

Tohru Takizawa, Kouichi Naka and Norie Wake

Department of Clinical Psychology,
Faculty of Medicine, University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan
207 Uehara, Nisihara, Okinawa 903-0215, Japan

ABSTRACT

School non-attendance (school refusal), in Japan refers to being absent from school 30 or more days in a year, not including absences for reasons of illness or economic problems. The purpose of this study was to examine the problem of school non-attendance in junior high schools in Okinawa Prefecture by comparing with the whole of Japan statistically. The data were obtained from "The School Basic Investigation", "About the Present Situation of the Problem in Case of Student Guide and the Policy of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture" (the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture), as well as using materials (The Prefectural Educational Bureau). Results were as follows: According to the reason for non-attendance, "anxiety" was revealed as the highest percentage (29%) among whole Japanese junior high school students, however, "disinterest in class, decline in grades" was revealed the highest percentage (21%) of Okinawan students as the main reason. Discussion: There most remarkable feature of the reasons for school non-attendance between Okinawan students and whole Japan were "disinterest in class, wasting time and delinquency" in Okinawa, while in other parts of Japan, the reasons were "extreme anxiety, nervousness, apathy and emotional disturbance". Currently, throughout Japan, school non-attendance is considered a pediatric psychosomatic disorder with physical symptoms. But in Okinawa it is also considered as a social problems. One measure taken to deal with the problem of school non-attendance is placing counselors in the schools. *Ryukyu Med. J., 21(2)83～87, 2002*

Key words: school non-attendance, junior high school, anxiety, playing and delinquency, Okinawa

INTRODUCTION

School non-attendance in Japan

What is referred to as school non-attendance (also called school refusal[1)2)], school phobia[3)]), means being absent from school for 30 or more days annually[4)], not including absences for illness and economic problems. School non-attendance is increasing from year to year, and is a major educational issue. The number of non-attenders in 1999 among elementary school children was 26,047 (incidence rate: 0.35%) and among junior-high school students was 104,180 (incidence rate: 2.45%).

Reasons —direct triggers and chronic conditions.

Direct triggers (reasons) that students do not go to school, (percentages for elementary and junior high school in 1999).

① The problems which arise within the student him/-her self were extreme anxiety and nervousness, ap athy, etc, (29.3%).

② Problem with peers such as bullying and fighting, (18.1%).

③ Problems concerning the parent and child relation ship, such as rebellion against scolding and the attitude of the parents (9.9%).

④ Disinterest in class for reasons such as not understanding the lectures, (not finding a class, dislike of tests, and so on,) (8.4%).

Concerning chronic school refusal, in 1991 the Ministry of Education Science and Culture classified the condition into seven modalities: ① The influence of problems in school life, (the existence of harassment by other students, interpersonal relationship with the teacher). ② Playing (wasting time) and delinquency. ③ Apathy. ④ Emotional confusion having to do with anxiety and so on (psychosomatic problems). ⑤ Intentional refusal for no particular reason (student deliberately chooses not go to school). ⑥ Combined reasons. ⑦ Other.

Comparison of school refusal in Okinawa Prefecture with that in other various parts of Japan.

Okinawa is a place, geographically and socio-culturally different from other parts of Japan. In recent years there have been rapid changes in preservation of health in the school setting. The purpose of this article was to grasp the present situation of school non-attendance among junior high school students by comparing Okinawa with various other parts of Japan using existing statistical data.

SUBJECTS, MATERIALS AND METHOD

The subjects were junior high school students in Japan (aged 12- 15years). The analysis was mainly for 1997～1999. For analysis we used the method of statistical value. We compared data obtained from "The School Basic Investigation[4]" "About the Present Situation of the Problem in Case of Student Guide and the Policy of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture[5]" (the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture), "The School Basic Investigation Report[6]" (School Board, Okinawa pref.) as well as other statistical materials from the prefecture. (the Prefectural Educational Bureau). SPSS and EXCEL were used to analyze the data. And the significance level gave in two-side test of the finding in the normal distribution function.

RESULT

I. Incident rate of school non-attendance in Japan (Table 1 and Fig.1).

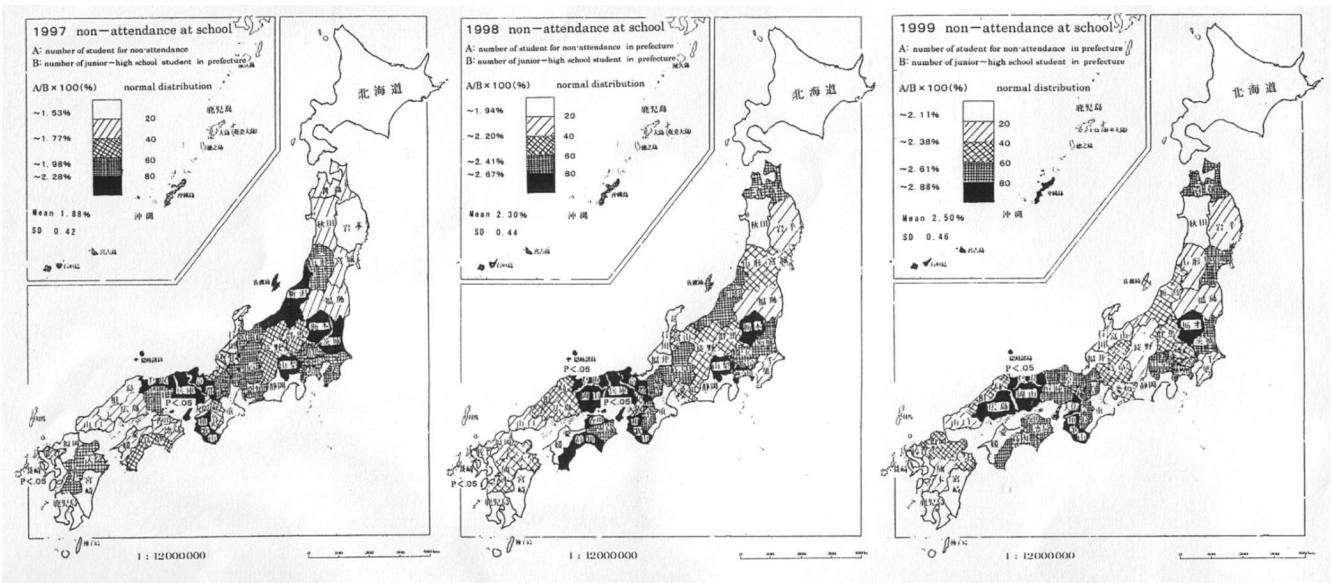

Fig. 1 map

Table 1 Difference by area for the past 3 years (97-99)

(M±SD)	prefecture (High)		prefecture (Low)	
1997 (1.88%±0.42)				
	Hyougo	2.72% ＊	Nagasaki	0.74% ＊
1998 (2.30%±0.44)				
	Tottori	3.29% ＊	Nagasaki	1.41% ＊
	Hyougo	3.19% ＊		
1999 (2.50%±0.46)				
	Tottori	3.50% ＊		

Two-side test of cumulative distribution function (cdf), ＊ (P<0.05).

The school non-attendance incidence rate for junior high schools in Japan were calculated as follows:
《 Incidence rate of school non-attendance by prefecture =number of non-attendance student / the number of all students in pref×100》.
In a recent 3 year period, the rate for Tottori prefecture($p<0.05$=1998, 1999) and Hyougo prefecture ($p<0.05$=1997, 1998) was significantly high, on the contrary, the Nagasaki prefecture rate was significantly low ($p<0.05$=1997, 1998). The Okinawa prefecture incidence rate had risen steadily. It is possible to observe difference by area when looking at Okinawa as a whole (Fig. 1).

Ⅱ. Changes in the incidence rates of school non-attenders in Okinawa and other Japanese Prefectures. (junior high schools from 1991-1999) (Fig.2). School non-attendance among the national junior high school students increased rapidly from 1995-98 with an annual increase of about 10,000. The number of school non-attenders in 1991 was 54,172 students nationwide, but in 1999, it had increased to 104,180 (1.92 times as many). In 1999 the number of non-attenders in Okinawa prefecture also increased from 915 (1991), to 1,758 (1999).

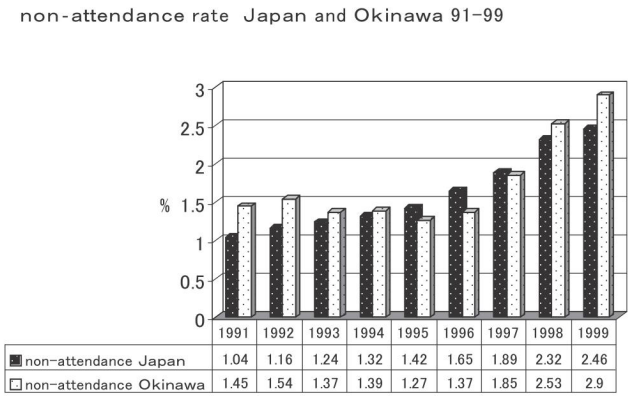

Fig. 2 Non-attendance rate (Junior High School) Japan and Okinawa 1991−1999.

Ⅲ. Reason —direct triggers and chronic conditions. (Fig. 3 ,4)

A. Direct triggers (junior high schools, Japan and Okinawa in 1999) Nationwide the most frequently given reason was "problems which arise within the student him or herself such as extreme anxiety and nervousness, and apathy" (29.3%). Reasons given by many in Okinawa prefecture were "disinterest in class and decline in grades" (21.4%).

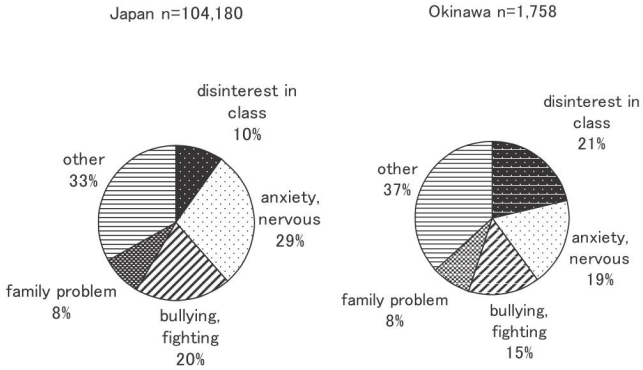

Fig. 3 Reasons (direct triggers) 1999

B. Chronic conditions (Japan/ Okinawa in 1999) Nationwide the greatest percentage (46.4%) was related to "anxiety and confusion having to do with emotions" and "apathy". As for Okinawa prefecture, 38.7% of all school refusal cases had to do with "playing and delinquency".

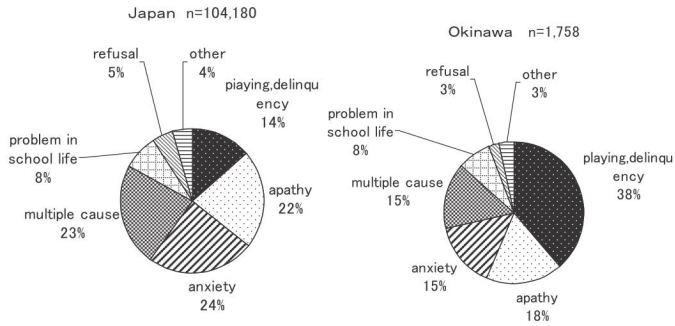

Fig. 4 Reason (chronic problems) 1999

Ⅳ. Return to school. (Fig. 5 ,6)
As a result of guidance and consultation, 31.3% of students returned to class within the same year.

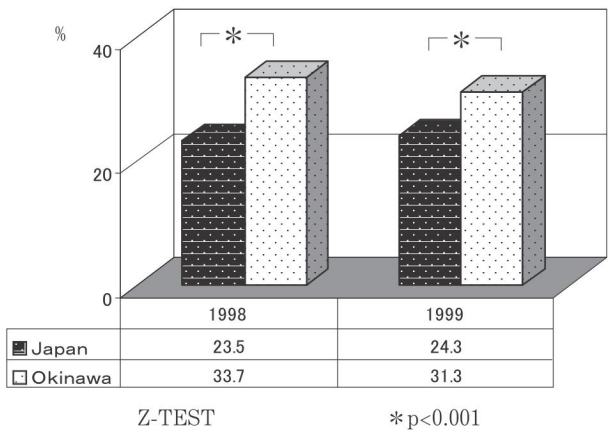

Fig. 5 Return to school (1998-99).

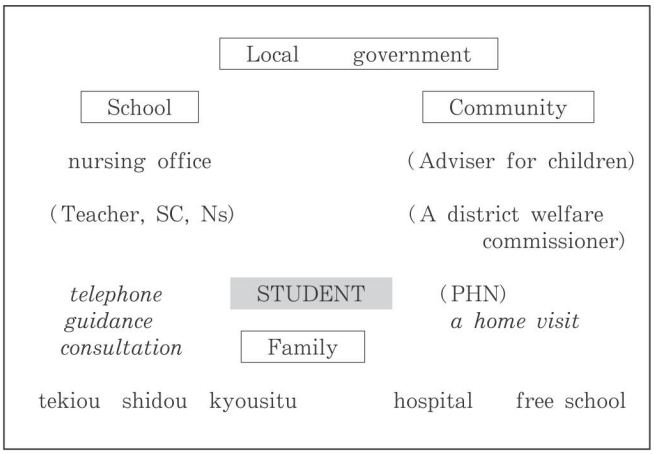

Fig. 6 Support system

DISCUSSION

The increase in school non-attendance in Okinawa has tended to rise in recent years. School non-attendance has been increasing nationwide of late. Tottori prefecture and hyougo prefecture showed a significantly higher rate of increase but Nagasaki prefecture showed a significantly low rate . Okinawa prefecture was the 7th worst in the nation in 1999.

There is a remarkable difference in the main reasons for school non-attendance between Okinawa and other parts of Japan. The most frequently given reasons in other areas of Japan are "extreme anxiety, nervousness, and apathy " and "emotional disturbance", On the other hand, in Okinawa the main reasons were "disinterest and decline in grades" and "playing and delinquency". Currently, nationwide, the problem of school non-attendance has become one of the pediatric psychosomatic disorders[7-9]. Among the patients who consult a doctor with physical symptoms related to school non-attendance, 50% are diagnosis based on DSM criteria as suffering from anxiety and 19% have depression[10]. Also, it is said that 6 % of non-attendance students develop schizophrenia[11]. However, in Okinawa, it is thought that school non-attendance is a social problem. Due to the subtropical climate of Okinawa which is different from the rest of Japan, a type of night society has emerged. According to Okinawa prefecture records for the year 2000, the number of boys who were taken into protective custody by the police for midnight wandering was 8,658 people[12] that was twice the ratio of the nation as a whole.

The Ministry of Education Science and Culture has started a project of providing a School Counselor (SC) for all junior high schools (10,500 schools) by the end of a five year period,(～2005, from the prefecture Education Bureau). The aim of the project is that "all the students should be able to have contact with a SC". In Okinawa , there were only 30 schools which have SCs in 2001, but within 5 years, that will increase to 143 schools. With SCs, an important part of their work is the school non-attendance problem. In 1999, 42.2% of all students consulting a counselor in Okinawa Prefecture concerned school non-attendance. In Okinawa, other measures of intervention and prevention are the provision of education advisers (16 persons), who make home visits. There are also special classes for guidance in adaptation to school life (tekiou shidou kyousitu 10 class total in 1999).

CONCLUSION

In this study, it was observed that due to failure to adapt to school life, students become non-attenders and developed symptoms of emotional disorders or have superficial problems of behavior. Furthermore for the purpose of intervention and prevention of the school refusal, arrangements for school counselors are spreading nation wide.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to express my appreciation and thanks to Professor Ogura and Professor Ishizu, for their encouragement and help in this project. We also thanks Mrs.Maxine Randall for English correction.

REFERENCE

1) Berg I.: School refusal and truancy. Arch. Dis. Child. 76: 90-91, 1997.
2) Raymond P. L. (eds): Handbook of Child Psychiatry and Psychology pp.587-589, Masson Publishing, New York, 1980.
3) Eliot J.G.: School Refusal, issues conceptualisation, assessment, and treatment. J. Child. Psychol. Psych iatry. 40: 1001-1012, 1999.
4) The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.: The School Basic Investigation (gakkou kihon chousa houkokusyo) : pp.93-96, The ministry of finance the printing bureau, Tokyo, 1998-2000 (in Japanese).
5) The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, The Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau.: About the Present Situation of the Problem in Case of Student Guide and the Policy of the Ministry of Educa tion, Science and Culture. (seitosidoujyou no shomondai to monbukagakusyou no sesaku ni tuite), pp.31-55, Tokyo, 2002 (in Japanese).
6) School Board, Okinawa prefecture.: The School Basic Investigation Report (gakkou kihon chousa houkokusyo): pp. 49, 51 (Table 22), Naha, 1998-2000 (in Japanese).
7) Berg I.: Absence from School and Mental Health. Br. J . Psychiatry. 161: 154-166, 1992.
8) Berg I.: Management of school refusal. Arch. Dis. Child. 60: 486-488, 1985.
9) Hanada M.: School refusal・School non-attendance. Japanese Journal of Clinical Psychiatry.25: 857-860,

1996 (in Japanese)

10) Saitou M., Yamazaki T., Satoh I., Harada K. and Honda H.: The meaning of psychiatric and physical symptoms which accompany school non-attendance (hutoukou ni zuihansuru sintaisyoujyou no seisinigakuteki igi): A study on effective mental health care for parent and child (Matui I. ed). pp.200-203, group research a study of effective mental health care for parent and child, Tokyo, 1997 (in Japanese).

11) Saitou M., Yamazaki T., Murooka M., Gyoujyou M. and Satou I.: An examination of questionnaire for parents about a manual of correspondence to psycho somatic problems in school non-attendance (sinsinsyouh eno taiou no tameno manyuaru): A study on effective mental health care for parent and child (Matui I. ed). pp. 126-128, group research a study of effective mental care for parent and child, Tokyo, 1998 (in Japanese).

12) The Okinawa Prefecture police headquarters.: The present situation of the midnight infamy of the boy, pp. 2-3, Okinawa, 2001 (in Japanese).